

DOCKET NO.: RUBC-0025 (97-0081 US)
Application No.: 09/763,331
Office Action Dated: August 13, 2003

**PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The August 13, 2003 Official Action and references cited therein have been carefully reviewed. In view of the amendments presented herewith and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

A Notice of Appeal is filed concurrently herewith, to maintain pendency of the application.

I. Status of the Prosecution

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the present application. Claims 2-6 and 17-21 are canceled herein. Claim 1 has been amended in scope to cover the allowable subject matter as indicated in the prior Office Action. The Office Action dated August 13, 2003 was made final. Claim 6 was deemed allowable, and this response is solely directed to amending the claims to the allowable subject matter and thereby placing them in condition for prompt allowance.

II. The Claims as Amended are all Directed to Allowable Subject Matter.

Claim 6 was deemed to be directed to allowable subject matter, but was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 6. Thus, amended claim 1, now covering the scope of claim 6 in independent form is allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding objection with respect to the claim 1. Claims 7-16 are dependent on claim 1, now in allowable form, and are also therefore allowable.

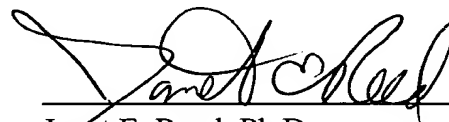
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III. Conclusion

In view of the amendments submitted herewith and the foregoing remarks, the presently-pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request early and favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the August 13, 2003 Official Action, and allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at 215-557-5985, if further discussion is needed to advance this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet E. Reed, Ph.D.
Registration No. 36,252

Date: February 11, 2004

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439